

SIMSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes of February 14, 2005 Meeting.

PRESENT: Carol Bingham, Bert Kaplan, Charmaine Glew, Gail Ryan and Anne Erickson. Susan Bullock, Director, Eileen Sickinger, Recording Secretary.

Carol Bingham, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. The minutes of the January 10, 2005 and January 28, 2005 Special Meeting were approved as presented. There were no additional agenda items and no public audience.

COMMUNICATIONS: Mrs. Bullock shared newspaper articles related to the library expansion. A thank you note from the STEP program of Simsbury High School was received. Sixteen students from Tootin' Hills School held a benefit concert in January to raise funds for the expansion. It is hoped the other schools will follow suit with similar projects. School Superintendent Diane Ullman expressed her support for these activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mrs. Glew reported that the Renewal Team has been meeting to discuss strategies to be used to raise awareness of the expansion project. The team will continue to attend town committee meetings related to the expansion. The Renewal Team was responsible for the flyer that was inserted in Simsbury Life. The next Renewal Team meetings are scheduled for March 2nd and 23rd. Friends will continue to pursue fund raising activities. Bert Kaplan is the liaison to Friends and its fund raising committee. The Board was urged to contact members of the Board of Finance before their vote on the capital projects. Friends are working on Night of 1,000 Stars and the 20th Anniversary celebration. On the 20th of each month, for one year, a special event will take place at the Library. The Library was in need of a American flag and local veterans will present around Presidents Day. Selectman John Romano arranged this.

PERSONNEL: Mrs. Bullock reported that the position of Head of Adult Services has been offered to one of the candidates and she is waiting for a reply. Three people have been hired in the circulation department.

BUILDING/PUBLIC AWARENESS: The letter prepared by Mrs. Bingham for Friends Doorways was reviewed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mrs. Bullock reported on the awarding of the \$500,000 state grant and the First Selectman's plan to fit the expansion into the Town funding within the Board of Finance caps. It is planned that the \$5.6 million expansion will be a referendum in May 2006. A construction contract must be signed by August 2006 to receive the state grant. A new slot of the SCTV show "Out and About" will feature the Library's space needs. Jerry Lintner has provided a DVD for in-house viewing. In the 2005-2006 budget the twelve new computers were cut and the (new) open positions have been rolled back to the first step level. If the candidate for Head of Adult Services accepts the position it could be filled by April 1st. There is an opening in the Technical Services Department and during the medical absence of a technical service staff member, a library technical assistant will fill in temporally. The new copy machines that have been installed are really copier printers. While they are more expensive to operate, it is hoped that a savings will be realized from the ability to do some in-house printing and not having to buy printer toner.

There are many new services available. Starting in January Simsbury borrowers will be able to place holds on another library's books from our catalog. There is a faster, simpler Inter-Library Loan procedure now available. Friends have provided the Interactive Library Calendar now running on the Library's website. Also, Friends have provided funding for a module that will enable patrons to visit the Library's web site, see the dates museum passes are available, and then reserve them for the dates they want them.

Because of the high cost, Mrs. Bullock does not feel that downloadable books from Recorded Books is a viable option since they cannot be downloaded onto Ipods. It might be justified if the costs drop, or if they can be downloaded on MMP3 players and Ipods.

Gail Ryan and Mrs. Bullock prepared statements for the Town's Annual Report.

The Business Resource Center programs continue to be extremely popular. The music fest and an upcoming series on home improvements have also been very well received. The new SAT and College Application Process programs have been successful and the Children's Room is getting ready for the annual Invention Convention.

How to handle gift money that will be received for the expansion was discussed. The question of whether the money would go into a Town fund or a Friends account was discussed. The procedure that was followed by the Town for monies given for the Band Shell was reviewed and Mrs. Bingham will discuss this further with Kevin Kane.

Included in the Director's packet were the "wish lists" from the Plainville Library and the Farmington Library. These can be used as references when it becomes time to prepare a similar list for the proposed expansion.

At 8:50 Gail Ryan moved for adjournment. Second: A. Erickson. So moved.


Anne Erickson, Secretary